

## SPECIAL SESSION TO CONSIDER ONLY LAWS ON HOUSING

Gov. Smith So Announces and  
Says State and City Should  
Render Aid.

Those working to better housing conditions were cheered to-day by the announcement of Gov. Smith last night that the special session of the Legislature would deal only with the housing situation, and that he was prepared to do everything in his power to obtain relief for New York tenants. The Governor made the announcement at a joint meeting of the Women's City Club and the City

Club. It is in line with the suggestions made by The Evening World. He said that the State and the city could and should "furnish immediate aid," and that as far as he was concerned he was ready to give entire credit to the Legislature from the steps of the Capitol if a constructive programme was enacted.

The Governor said the question should be allocated to some definite Government agency whose duty it would be to study it and become an authority on the matter. This was recommended last year, but failed of passage, he declared.

"The question of extending the credit of the State toward the building of houses is debatable," the Governor declared. As to the question of the State permitting the municipalities to lend money to carry on building, he stated his position squarely, and it was that no harm could possibly come if the cities were given this grant of power, to do anything in the building line they wanted to do, providing the whole matter were placed on the basis of public health and welfare.

"The city owns a great deal of prop-

erty," he continued. "There are abandoned fire houses, schools and police stations. No harm could come to any interest if the city were given power to relieve the housing situation by the use of these buildings in any way it saw fit because of a crisis that endangered the public health and welfare."

"I have lived, eaten and slept with this housing problem," the Governor asserted, "and I have come here tonight to impress on you that I called the extraordinary session of the Legislature in an honest attempt to solve it. The housing problem has been neglected in this State for twenty years. We put ourselves to sleep when we thought we solved it by passing the Tenement House Law, and we shall not solve it now unless we do something definite and that will stand for the years to come."

"There was a very fixed and definite programme on housing presented to the Legislature and they scrapped it. They have admitted they did not give us a cure, but merely a salve for the temporary hurt. After a year of supposed study the sum total of the Housing Committee's work was

the ten or twelve rent laws. "I hold," he continued, "that if there exists a situation endangering public health and welfare, and the Health Commissioner so certifies, we have as much right to relieve it as to pledge public credits to stamp out cholera or small-pox."

Elmer G. Sammis, counsel for the Joint Legislative Committee on Housing, said the new legislation will protect the tenant from the profiteer, but would go no further than necessary to "protect the economically weak from the economically strong."

Mary Garrett Hay presided. Other speakers were H. Fulton Cutting, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the City and Suburban Homes Company, and Nelson S. Spencer, President of the City Club. The club's assembly hall was packed, women predominating.

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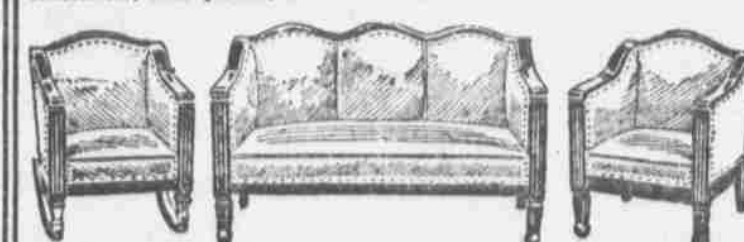
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